



COMMISSION ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

Minutes

January 23, 2017

PRESIDING: Sharonlee Vogel, Chair

Members Attending

Jennifer Asher
Angie Boyter
Pete Brunner
Debbie Fleischmann
Susan Hailman
Jan Horan
Julia Mattis
Bob McLaughlin
Eletta Morse
SK Shin
Michael Willis

Not Present

Reg Avery
Barbara Catlin
Andrew Monjan

Office on Aging and Independence

Terri Hansen
Starr Sowers

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham

Guests

Bruce Fulton, Neighbor Ride of Howard County

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Approve Agenda

Sharonlee Vogel requested that the MDCOA report be removed from the agenda and that the Budget Committee be the first to present. Bob McLaughlin moved to accept the amended agenda, and Jennifer Asher seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Agenda accepted.*

Approve Minutes

Michael Willis requested that the minutes be updated to show that his suggestion during Senior Issues Heard resulted from conversation with constituents at the 50+ EXPO. Michael Willis moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as amended, and Julia Mattis seconded the motion. Motion was approved. *All in favor. Minutes accepted.*

Presentation by Bruce Fulton, Neighbor Ride

Bruce Fulton, Executive Director of Neighbor Ride provided the COA with an overview and brief history of Neighbor Ride's services and answered questions from members.

Neighbor Ride's customers can enjoy up to 12 rides per month (ride is a round-trip journey) and the organization boasts at 97% fulfill rate for ride requests. Average ride cost is approximately \$10. Bruce shared information about the increasing use of their Good Neighbor Fund, which is currently providing funding for 32-35% of all trips. To qualify, customers must be at 120% of the federal poverty level.

Committee Reports

Caregiving

No report.

Government Relations

Bob McLaughlin reminded Sharonlee and the Commission that Clive Graham from the Office of Transportation should be scheduled to attend another meeting in the spring.

Bob also shared information on a state funding process for transportation and asked if the county had plans to apply. Terri Hansen shared that the county was not eligible as a portion of the services had to be provided by volunteers but that the information had been shared with Neighbor Ride.

Health and Wellness

Jennifer Asher shared that the committee had been reviewing reports provided by Andrew Monjan. The group will have more to share next month; if interested in receiving a copy of any of the reports, feel free to email Jennifer or Andrew.

Budget and Policy

Pete Brunner reported that the committee had prepared testimony for the state delegation on the Homestead Tax Credit which was forwarded to the delegation by County Administration. Additionally, written testimony was prepared for the County Council in support of the expansion of the Livable Homes Tax Credit. The committee is still at work on budget recommendations for the Office on Aging and Independence.

Aging in the Community

Eletta Morse attended the Renew, Rehab and Replace presentation on universal design strategies in aging in place renovations. In addition to information on home modification, the Office on Aging and Independence presented on potential sources of funding for seniors that cannot afford modifications on their own. The keynote presentation was from an architect and reassured that many of the homes in the county are able to be renovated to further aging in place.

Howard County Police Department

Andre Lingham provided an update on the string of air bag thefts that had taken place in the county. There were thefts from 75 vehicles, although no new cases have been reported recently. The most commonly effected cars were made by Honda, Nissan, and Toyota.

Andre also shared that reports of identity theft by data breach are up, while credit card compromises are down. Overall, reports of identity thefts are still on the rise.

Office on Aging Report

Starr Sowers began by thanking the Commission for their testimony in support of the Livable Homes Tax Credit modifications before the County Council. Starr attended the Council work session on the tax credit, and most questions were regarding how the credit would be publicized. The Office is working with the Department of Finance to plan publicity efforts including a Resource Guide article, mailings in water bills, and tax credit clinics. The Commission also suggested advertising with local VFW posts, tax preparers, and in Recreation and Parks mailings.

Starr also shared that the Office has a tentative date for the 50+ EXPO. The date will be publicized after the school board approves the calendar in February.

Chair's Report

Sharonlee shared that she is working to schedule a presentation from Horizon Health Survey for an upcoming meeting. She will also be scheduling the Office of Transportation to return in late spring to discuss results of their planning efforts.

Senior Issues Heard (Sharing from Commissioners)

Michael reported that he is now working with Summit Park Health and Rehab, a change that has given him new experience working with clients on medical assistance.

Andre said that Howard County Police are seeing an increase in opioid use and overdose in the county, including a case where an individual overdosed three times in a single day. He also shared that the police were able to collect 3200 pounds of unwanted prescription medication last year through their drug drop boxes. Andre also reminded us that World Elder Abuse Prevention day is June 15.

Susan Hailman shared that the Village in Howard is beta testing their Circle of Care program, which provides wrap around care for those without a support network following surgery or other ailment. Miller Library will host a presentation on February 13 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Beacon Hill Village.

Debbie Fleischmann shared that the hospital will be starting emergency room renovations in February to create an internal waiting room, allowing for better management of those with minor problems. This is the first in a number of planned renovations which should improve and expand their ability to provide behavioral health services.

Jennifer Asher attended the Women's March on Washington and was struck by the wide age-range of attendees. Many of the signs indicated a desire to preserve Medicare.

Jan Horan recently traveled to South Carolina and visited a local senior center where she was pleasantly surprised by the range of programming offered. Jan also met the new DCRS Director, Steve Bullock last week. Jan shared some information regarding BGE and Microsoft scams in the community.

Angie Boyter reported that she had testified in support of the modifications to the Livable Homes Tax Credit (CB-7). She also shared that it's becoming increasingly challenging to find a provider willing to complete the paperwork Medicare requires for diabetic shoes.

Eletta Morse asked if the county provided contractor recommendations to assist with aging in place modifications. Due to legal issues, this is not something the county can provide.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Pete Brunner motioned to adjourn. Eletta Morse seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Rittenhouse

Next Meeting: February 27, 2017, Ellicott City 50+ Center, 7pm